



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Southern District of Texas

In the Matter of the Search of
(Briefly describe the property to be searched
or identify the person by name and address)

Black Galaxy S10 Smart-Phone
IMEI: 352335101533556

Case No.

B. 19-824-101
United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
FILED

AUG 16 2019

APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant under the penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):
A black Galaxy smart phone Model-S10, IMEI: 352335101533556 currently located at the United States Border Patrol Brownsville Station, 940 N. FM 511, Olmito, Texas 78575.

located in the Southern District of Texas, there is now concealed (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):

The date, time, phone numbers, and duration of incoming, outgoing and missed calls; The date, time and phone numbers of/ or voicemail and text messages; actual recorded voicemails; the data, photos and actual text messages to and from a phone.

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;
☐ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
☒ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

Code Section
21 U.S.C. § 841 and
21 U.S.C. § 846

Offense Description
Narcotic Smuggling

The application is based on these facts:
See attached Affidavit

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.
☐ Delayed notice of days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days:) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Gustavo Gallegos III- Border Patrol Agent (Intelligence)

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date:

8/16/2019

City and state: Brownsville, Texas

Judge's signature

Ignacio Torteya III, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

Public and unofficial staff access
to this instrument are
prohibited by court order.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Search of a
Black Galaxy S10 Smart-Phone
IMEI: 352335101533556

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Criminal No.

B-19-824-MJ

Currently Located at the
United States Border Patrol
Brownsville Border Patrol Station
Olmito, Texas, 78575

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION UNDER RULE 41 FOR A
WARRANT TO SEARCH AND SEIZE**

I, Gustavo Gallegos III, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I make this affidavit in support of an application under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41 for a warrant to search a black Galaxy smart-phone Model: S10, IMEI: 352335101533556 (hereinafter "Device"), which is currently stored, in law enforcement possession, at the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville Station, 940 N. FM 511, Olmito, Texas 78575, for certain things particularly described in Attachment A.

2. In my training and experience, I know that the Device has been stored in a manner in which its contents are, to the extent material to this investigation, in substantially the same state as they were when the Device first came into the possession of agents.

3. I am an Agent with U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) assigned to the Brownsville Border Patrol Station. I have served as a USBP Agent since July 2007 and have been assigned to the Rio Grande Valley Sector Intelligence Unit (RGV-SIU) since August 2013. I am a law enforcement officer of the U.S., within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2510(7), who is empowered to conduct investigations of, and to make arrests for, offenses enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 2516. I am classified, trained, and employed as a federal law enforcement officer with statutory arrest

authority charged with conducting criminal investigations of alleged violations of federal criminal statutes.

4. During my career, I have been a part of numerous arrests linked to harboring and transporting of undocumented aliens and narcotics. Through these arrests, along with my training and experience, prior law enforcement experience of five (5) years as a Police Officer, and conversations with other agents and law-enforcement personnel, I have become familiar with the methods used by human and narcotic smugglers to smuggle and safeguard undocumented aliens and narcotics and to thwart or evade investigations of their trafficking organizations. One of the tactics frequently used by these organizations is the consistent use of cellular telephones and text messages along with other applications with text and photo messaging. I am aware that members of these organizations often store co-conspirators' telephone numbers in the telephone memory and communicate using code names through cellular telephones and their radio transmitters to facilitate transactions and to conceal their identities.

5. This affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause to secure a search warrant for the Device. As such, not all facts known to me or other agents concerning this investigation have been included. An Assistant U.S. Attorney approved this affidavit for filing.

PROBABLE CAUSE

6. On August 13, 2019, U.S. Border Patrol Agents assigned to the Rio Grande Valley Sector Intelligence Unit were conducting static surveillance near the area of San Pedro, Texas. This area is heavily used by Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCO) and is a known crossing point for undocumented aliens and narcotics. At approximately 2:50 p.m., Agents observed a green Ford Explorer displaying Temporary License Plates . travel south onto Old Military Highway towards the Rio Grande River. Minutes later, Agents observed the same green Ford Explorer exit the area and travel east on Military Highway. Agents occupying unmarked service vehicles began surveillance on the green Ford Explorer and observed the vehicle turn onto El Metro Street and exit El Astro Street onto Alton Gloor Boulevard. Agents observed that as the

Ford Explorer exited El Astro Street, a black Chevrolet Silverado displaying Texas License Plates was following directly behind. It is common for narcotics smugglers to utilize escort vehicles to provide protection and at times to run interference on law enforcement vehicles if the illicit load is compromised. Agents observed that the vehicles were traveling at slow speeds and moved in traffic together. The black Chevrolet Silverado continued traveling directly behind the green Ford Explorer north on Alton Gloor Boulevard and then east onto Morrison Road. Agents observed that the black Chevrolet Silverado was mirroring the movements of the green Ford Explorer. At one point, Agents passed the vehicles to obtain a better view at which time they observed numerous bundle like objects of suspected narcotics in the rear cargo area of the green Ford Explorer. The vehicles continued traveling on Morrison Road and subsequently came to a stop at a red traffic light at the intersection of Morrison Road and McAllen Road. The green Ford Explorer and black Chevrolet Silverado traveled in tandem for approximately three miles. As the vehicles were stopped in traffic, uniformed and plain-clothes Border Patrol Agents wearing identifiable law enforcement insignia approached the green Ford Explorer and black Chevrolet truck. As Agents approached the driver of the green Ford Explorer, later identified as Juan GARCIA, he (GARCIA) accelerated in an attempt to flee the area. Agents managed to open the driver side door and place GARCIA into custody. Six bundles of suspected marijuana totaling 112.67 kilograms were located in the vehicle GARCIA was operating. Agents then detained the driver of the black Chevrolet truck identified as Mark Anthony SEPULVEDA and the passenger identified as Roel RAMOS pending further investigation. Agents observed four clear zip lock bags containing a green leafy substance on top of the center console occupied by SEPULVEDA and RAMOS. SEPULVEDA admitted to Agents on scene that the four clear zip lock bags containing the suspected marijuana belonged to him.

Agents transported all three subjects, both vehicles and narcotics to the Brownsville Border Patrol Station for further case development.

Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agents responded and federal prosecution was accepted for Juan GARCIA. SEPULVEDA and RAMOS were released pending further investigation.

SEPULVEDA was previously identified as a suspected narcotic coordinator operating in the Brownsville Border Patrol area of responsibility. Phone toll analysis of a former load driver's cellular phone number revealed that a phone number registered to SEPULVEDA was communicating with the driver prior to and during a narcotic smuggling attempt on October 30, 2018, which resulted in the seizure of 215.78 kilograms of marijuana.

Based on previous intelligence and SEPULVEDA's detention during a narcotic smuggling event, a cellular phone found in his possession was seized.

The black Galaxy Model-S10 smart-phone, IMEI: 352335101533556 (the Device) remains in BP custody pending an approval for a search warrant.

7. The affiant asserts that there is probable cause to believe that the Device, which was seized from Mark Anthony SEPULVEDA, contains evidence of narcotic smuggling. It is known that members of these smuggling organizations often store photographs, text messages, e-mails and co-conspirators' telephone numbers in the telephone memory and communicate using code names to facilitate the smuggling coordination.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND STORAGE

8. As described herein and in Attachment A, this application seeks permission to search and seize things that the Device might contain, in whatever form they are stored. Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, I know that electronic devices can store information for long periods of time. Even when a user deletes information from a device, it can sometimes be recovered with forensics tools. Similarly, things that have been viewed via the Internet are typically stored for some period of time on the device. This information can sometimes be recovered with forensics tools.

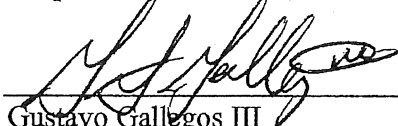
9. Searching for the evidence described in Attachment A may require a range of data-analysis techniques. In some cases, agents and computer analysts may be able to conduct carefully-targeted searches that can locate evidence without requiring a time-consuming manual search through unrelated materials that may be commingled with criminal evidence. In other cases,

however, such techniques may not yield the evidence described in the warrant. Criminals can mislabel or hide information, encode communications to avoid using key words, attempt to delete information to evade detection, or take other steps designed to frustrate law enforcement searches for information. These steps may require agents and law enforcement or other analysts with appropriate expertise to conduct more extensive searches, such as scanning storage areas unrelated to things described in Attachment A, or perusing all stored information briefly to determine whether it falls within the scope of the warrant. In light of these difficulties, BP Agents intend to use whatever data-analysis techniques appear necessary to locate and retrieve the evidence described in Attachment A.

CONCLUSION

10. I submit that this affidavit supports probable cause for a warrant to search the Device and seize the items described in Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,



Gustavo Gallegos III
Border Patrol Agent-Intelligence
United States Border Patrol

Subscribed and sworn to before me

On August 16, 2019:



Ignacio Torteya III
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

ATTACHMENT A

B-19-874 MS

1. All records and information, contained in a black Galaxy Smart-Phone Model: S10, IMEI: 352335101533556, that involve violations of 21 U.S.C § 841 and 21 U.S.C § 846 (Possession of Marijuana and Conspiracy to Possess with intent to distribute Marijuana):

- a. any information related to narcotic smuggling (including saved contacts, phone logs, text messages, voice mails, videos, photos, or any other saved records); and
- b. evidence of user attribution showing who used or owned the Device at the time the things described in this warrant and attachment were created, edited, or deleted, such as logs, phonebooks, saved usernames and passwords, documents, and browsing history.

2. As used above, the terms “records” and “information” include all of the foregoing items of evidence in whatever form and by whatever means they may have been created or stored (including, for example: call logs, contact lists, voicemails, and text messages), including any form of computer or electronic storage (such as flash memory or other media that can store data) and any photographic form.